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# Articles in Today's Clips

**Thursday, September 11, 2008**

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# Saginaw mom pleads no contest to dousing son with scalding water

**Posted by Darryl Tucker | The Saginaw News September 10, 2008 17:52PM**

A Saginaw mother of five has pleaded no contest to charges that she tossed hot water on her 7-year-old son, causing severe burns while trying to discipline him.

Bonnie R. Ruggles, 36, of 917 N. Webster entered the plea Tuesday to a torture charge involving her son.

A no contest plea means a defendant does not contest prosecutor's evidence but is willing to accept punishment.

Ruggles is free on bond.

Police said that after Ruggles tossed the hot water on her son July 24, the youth walked to Covenant Healthcare for treatment. Hospital workers called police.

The youngster suffered second-degree burns to 7 percent of his body, including his arms, back and shoulder, prosecutors said.

Ruggles told detectives the boy was out of control and she got angry, investigators said.

Saginaw County Chief Circuit Judge Robert L. Kaczmarek will sentence Ruggles on Monday, Oct. 20. A plea agreement calls for Ruggles to serve five years on probation.

Authorities said Michigan Child Protective Services staffers removed the victim and three of his siblings from the home, while the oldest child, a 17-year-old, is living on his own.

Chief District Judge M. Randall Jurrens, who accepted the plea, ordered Ruggles not to have any contact with the victim or to have unsupervised visits with any minor children.

Defense attorney William D. White said his client has agreed to mental health counseling.

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## Man wanted on Pender child abuse charges captured in Michigan

*By David Reynolds,  
Staff Writer*

*Published: Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 10:10 p.m.*

A tip from the public led police to a man wanted on allegations he abused multiple children in the Rocky Point area, officials said Wednesday.

Isidro Garcia Gazca, 38, was captured Sept. 2 by the Grand Rapids Police Department in Michigan, according to Detective Sgt. Scott A. Lawson of the Pender County Sheriff's Office.

The arrest followed a tip from someone in Southeastern North Carolina to the sheriff's office, Lawson said.

Authorities announced charges against Gazca late last month, alleging he abused children between the ages of 7 and 13. The alleged offenses occurred sometime from December 2006 to March 2008, authorities have said.

The investigation began this summer when two children came forward with accusations. Gazca faces 13 charges and, if convicted, would face a lengthy prison term, Lawson said.

The case is one of several child abuse cases Pender County sheriff's deputies have investigated this summer. Lawson attributes the jump in sexual abuse arrests to increased dialogue about an uncomfortable subject.

More and more, Lawson said, children are realizing that if they report abuse, something will be done about it.

Lawson said media attention on the case helped deputies track a fugitive.

"When we reach out to the community in an investigation like this, it always amazes me how many people will step up and assist," he said.

Gazca is incarcerated in Michigan and authorities are working to extradite him to Pender County, Lawson said.

David Reynolds: 343-2075 dave.reynolds@starnewsonline.com

Macomb County news briefs  
Detroit Free Press  
Sept. 11, 2008

## **WARREN: Man pleads no contest in 14-month-old's death**

A Warren man will be sentenced Oct. 8 after pleading no contest to involuntary manslaughter and first-degree child abuse in the death of his girlfriend's 14-month-old son. Nate Perry, 20, entered the plea Tuesday, when jury selection was set to begin for his second trial in the death. His first trial ended in July with a deadlocked jury.



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### Secretary of State's Mobile Office comes to NMU.

 By [Nick Kanczuzewski](#)

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 6:55 p.m.

MARQUETTE -- Obama or McCain...that is the question this election year. National polls now indicate it's a dead heat. And if you talk to young voters - you'll get a debate.

"Pretty much all the news I've seen, everything I've listened too, everything I've read about it - I've leaned towards McCain from beginning," commented NMU student Brooks Harrison.

"I'm leaning towards Barrack Obama in the upcoming election because I think he's the right thing for our country," added NMU student Brian Dibbern. "I don't think McCain will do anything to change what's going on right now."

As for the overall consensus on the NMU campus - "definitely a more democratic campus," said NMU student Alex Knudson. "And I think a lot of people here are leaning a lot more towards Obama right now."

That conforms to most national polls which show Obama with a majority of the youth vote. But the biggest challenge for both sides is getting young people to actually cast a ballot on election day. And half of that battle is getting them to register.

That's where the Secretary of State's Mobile Office comes in. It was on campus Wednesday, providing student's with a quick and easy way to register.

"We are actually currently on our - what we consider our university registration drive tour," said Mobile Office manager David Dodds. "Over the next 5 weeks we'll be visiting every university campus in the state - so all 15 of them."

If you'd like to take advantage of the Mobile Office's convenience, it'll be at Michigan Tech University on Thursday from 9 AM to 3 PM.

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Thursday, September 11, 2008

## Ministry reaches out to help fostering families

Jeannie Gregory  
Editor

Thursday, September 11, 2008



The Rockford Orphan Care Ministry (Roc'M) has a heart for area children in the foster care system and has made it their mission to help the children feel comfortable in their new surroundings. The organization is an outreach ministry of Resurrection Life Church and is working to make ties with the 16 licensed foster agencies in Kent County.

"The thought that usually comes to mind when we think of orphans is a starving child in a third world country," said Kanda Carey, one of the founders of the nonprofit organization. "When we were planning this ministry, we considered the

ways that we could help and where our focus should be. We decided to start right here in our own back yard with the many 'modern orphans' in our foster care system."

According to Carey, there are around 6,000 children in the foster care system in Michigan. It is the goal of the organization to try and help these children by offering support and training to potential foster families.

Carey is hoping that if the timing for fostering is not right for a family that perhaps they can help with donations.

"These children usually have very little to call their own when they come into foster care," she said. "They usually have a garbage bag with some clothes in it and a toy or two. We would like to be able to provide items to these kids and families when needed. For example, if an infant is placed in a family and they need a car seat and portable crib and other items right away."

The organization also features a non-emergency ministry called Roc'M Angels. These "angels" will fulfill a special wish of a foster child. When a need comes in at an important milestone of a foster child's life - such as senior pictures, a class ring or summer camp - a request will go out to those on the angel e-mail list and whoever wants to help with that need can reply.

According to Carey, the organization has the expertise of four child welfare professionals who are directly involved in the ministry.

"We exist to recruit new foster families, to support existing foster care families and to meet the extra special needs of children in the foster care system."

The Roc'M Ministry offers a variety of volunteer opportunities. For more information please contact Kanda Carey at (616) 866-1631.

### Related Links

## **Michigan Department of Human Services News Release**

**Contact: Edward Woods III (517) 373-7394 or (517) 927-1884**

### **DHS Director Ahmed invites Traverse City-area residents to join fight to reduce poverty and maximize economic opportunities for all**

September 10, 2008

TRAVERSE CITY - Department of Human Services Director Ismael Ahmed today formally invited regional human services organizations and residents here to join efforts to reduce poverty and maximize economic opportunities for all Michigan citizens by attending the 2008 Voices for Action Poverty Summit in Detroit on November 13.

"Too many families are just one paycheck away from sliding into poverty," Ahmed said. "More than half a million children in this state live in poverty. It's a national issue that affects one in five people including citizens all over Michigan. This poverty reduction summit will bring together leaders from across our state to identify strategies to enhance efforts already underway."

The day-long summit on November 13 kicks off a statewide initiative that builds on Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's existing efforts to create jobs, strengthen education and expand access to health care, college and job training by using regional teams to focus resources on the area's most pressing issues. Granholm and Martin Luther King III will keynote the summit, which also offers breakout sessions focusing on work and employment, education, health care and housing in regions.

Ahmed joined DHS staff, community residents and regional partners from Leelanau Children's Center and the Northwest Michigan Human Services at a media roundtable at the Goodwill Inn's dining hall to talk about how Michigan families and individuals are finding creative solutions to these challenging economic times.

Grand Traverse County's poverty rate is 8.7 percent, well below the state's 14 percent overall rate according to the federal Census' American Community Survey estimates for 2007.

"Michigan's efforts to reduce poverty and maximize economic opportunity will help achieve the national goal of reducing poverty by fifty percent in the next decade," Ahmed said. "We know that a state effort combined regional solutions and committed, caring people can make all the difference."

For more information, please consult the DHS Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs) or [www.michigan.gov/poverty](http://www.michigan.gov/poverty).